

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MEXICO 06625 061921Z

42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 (ISO) W

----- 113927

O 061745Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3108

S E C R E T MEXICO 6625

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XM, MX, CU

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA'S VIEWS ON CUBA AS A RESULT OF HIS TRIP

FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: MEXICO 5684

1. RABASA ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS HOME, SAYING THAT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ECHEVERRIA'S TRIP, NOTABLY CUBA, AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST.

2. HE RECALLED THAT PRIOR TO DEPARTING, THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED HIM TO TELL US OF HIS CONCERN AT THE CONTINUED IRREGULAR SITUATION OF CUBA AND HIS HOPE THE U.S. MIGHT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO PARTICIPATING IN SOME STEPS TOWARD A RECONCILIATION WITH CUBA, OR AT LEAST ITS REGULARIZATION AS PART OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY.

3. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA HAD CONFIRMED THE PRESIDENT'S IMPRESSION ON THIS MATTER, AND AT EACH STOP ALONG THE WAY, EXCEPT AT BRAZIL, HIS HOSTS HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN BRINGING UP THE MATTER OF CUBA. IN EACH CASE THERE WAS A DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS, OR WHERE THESE ALREADY EXISTED A DESIRE THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE HEMISPHERE RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 06625 061921Z

ECHEVERRIA UNDERSTOOD THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED

BETWEEN COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, PANAMA, COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS (THE LATTER TO HIS SURPRISE) TO MOVE TOGETHER AS A GROUP ON THE CUBA MATTER. THESE FIVE COUNTRIES WANTED TO DO THINGS LEGALLY THROUGH THE OAS, BUT IF THIS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY MOVE TOGETHER TO RENEW RELATIONS REGARDLESS OF OAS MECHANISMS.

4. RABASA, IN ECHEVERRIA'S NAME, THEN MADE MORE OR LESS THE SAME PLEA HE HAD ON THE PREVIOUS OCCASION, I.E., IT WAS NECESSARY TO DE-SOVIETIZE CUBA BY GIVING IT ANOTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE ALTERNATIVE; THE "BLOCKADE" HAD PROVED INEFFECTUOUS AND WAS NOW ACTUALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE; CUBA HAD CUT BACK ON INTERVENTIONISM AND WAS WILLING AND EVEN EAGER TO RESUME RELATIONS WITH ITS FELLOW-AMERICAN NATIONS (INCLUDING, HE FELT, THE UNITED STATES); CASTRO HAD, IN HIS RECENT JULY 26 SPEECH, MADE PLEASANT NOISES TOWARDS VENEZUELA, WHICH THE LATTER WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER ENOUGH OF A FACE-SAVING DEVICE TO JUSTIFY ITS OWN RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS; IF WE FAIL TO BRING CUBA BACK NOW, IT MIGHT WELL REGRESS TOWARDS A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE. FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE REASONS, THE PRESIDENT AND RABASA BELIEVED THAT IT WAS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES ITSELF TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARDS RECONCILIATION.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, RABASA RECOGNIZED WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AT TLAZOLCO, THAT THE CUBAN PROBLEM WAS ALSO A DOMESTIC U.S. PROBLEM, BUT HE TRUSTED IN OUR PRUDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE. IF THE U.S. WERE UNABLE TO JOIN THIS MOVEMENT TOWARDS REGULARIZING RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MEXICO HOPED THAT THE U.S. AT LEAST WOULD NEITHER OBSTRUCT NOR "PROSELYTIZE" AGAINST IT.

6. IN CLOSING THE CONVERSATION, RABASA REITERATED THAT MEXICO HAD PLAYED FAIR WITH THE U.S. BY DISCUSSING THE MATTER OF CUBA PRIVATELY WITH US ON REPEATED OCCASIONS, AND MOST RECENTLY ON THE EVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WHEN HE HAD BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION ECHEVERRIA'S CONVICTION THAT THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT HIS VARIOUS STOPPING PLACES. THIS HAD PROVED TO BE TRUE, BUT HE AGAIN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 06625 061921Z

EMPHASIZED THAT IN EACH CASE, EXCEPT IN BRAZIL, IT WAS THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND NOT MEXICO THAT HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF CUBA. EVEN IN BRAZIL THE MEXICANS HAD FOUND THE BRAZILIAN POSITION CONSIDERABLY LESS HARD-LINE THAN THEY HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE AND SENSED THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION MIGHT WELL EVOLVE ON THIS MATTER.

7. IN CLOSING I STRESSED TO RABASA THAT U.S. POSITION ON

CUBA WAS UNCHANGED AND I REMINDED HIM THAT THIS WAS INDEED
A DIFFICULT MATTER FOR US AND, AS HE HIMSELF HAD POINTED
OUT, ALSO HAD DOMESTIC U.S. CONSIDERATIONS; HENCE
PRESSURES AT THIS TIME WERE UNHELPFUL. I CLOSED BY
SAYING THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS CONVERSATION FAITHFULLY.
JOVA

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, CUBA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, COMMUNISTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO06625
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0777
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740871/aaaaciwz.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: MEXICO 5684
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECHEVERRIA'S VIEWS ON CUBA AS A RESULT OF HIS TRIP FOR THE SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, XM, MX, CU, US, (RABASA), (ECHEVERRIA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005